CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1319
15 June 1995

ENGLISH
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LETTER DATED 14 JUNE 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELGIUM TO THE CONFERENCE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY BELGIUM CONCERNING THE CHINESE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION OF 15 MAY 1995

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement by Belgium concerning the Chinese nuclear explosion of 15 May 1995.

I would be grateful if the necessary arrangements could be made for it to be distributed as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Baron Alain Guillaume
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.95-61902 (E)

STATEMENT BY BELGIUM CONCERNING THE CHINESE NUCLEAR TEST
OF 15 MAY 1995

On the occasion of the resumption of the work of the CD, the Government of Belgium would like to say how pleased it is at the success of the review and extension Conference for the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty which has just taken place in New York. We believe that above and beyond the decision taken there to extend the Treaty indefinitely - thus securing the foundations of international security in the future - its success is due to the fact that the Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament were also adopted. These are designed to serve as guidelines for all our future activities and they also specify that the nuclear Powers should exercise "utmost restraint" with respect to nuclear tests. In the light of these principles, the fact that - on the very day after they were adopted by consensus - China proceeded to conduct a new nuclear test is absolutely shocking and indeed provocative, and my Government cannot but deplore this fact, for it runs truly counter to the spirit of our negotiations. At the same time, I would say that paradoxically this event, far from slowing down negotiations on the CTBT, underlines the urgent need for their completion. While regretting the event, let us therefore at the same time draw the lesson from it.